

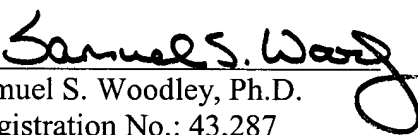
- Group I: Claims 1-24, 28-40 and 151, directed to methods for selecting a crossover location in a biopolymer;
- Group II: Claims 25-27, directed to methods for the directed evolution of a biopolymer;
- Group III: Claims 41-70, 111-117, 120-126, 131-134 and 139-140, directed to methods for producing a hybrid polymer from two or more parent polymers;
- Group IV: Claims 71-100, 118-199, 127-130, 135-138 and 141, directed to methods for producing a library of hybrid polymers;
- Group V: Claims 101-110, directed to methods for modeling the recombination of polymers;
- Group VI: Claim 142, directed to methods using a staggered extension process to produce recombinant oligonucleotides;
- Group VII: Claims 143-145, direct to methods using an “*in vitro-in vivo*” recombination method;
- Group VIII: Claims 146-149, directed to methods using *in vitro* PCR amplification to produce recombinant oligonucleotides; and
- Group IX: Claims 150-151, directed to methods using a family shuffling method to produce recombinant oligonucleotides.

In order to be fully responsive to the Requirement for Restriction, Applicants hereby provisionally elect, with traverse, to prosecute the claims of Group I (*i.e.*, claims 1-24, 28-40 and 151) directed to methods for selecting a crossover location in a biopolymer. However, Applicants respectfully traverse the Requirement for Restriction and reserve the right to petition therefrom under 37 C.F.R. 1.144. In particular, and contrary to what is indicated in the Official Action, the pending claims of this entire application can be examined without any undue burden on the Examiner or the Patent and Trademark Office.

Under Patent Office examining procedures, "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner *must* examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims directed to distinct or individual inventions." See, M.P.E.P. 803 (emphasis added). The groups of claims designated in this Official Action do not define methods or compositions which are sufficiently distinct to warrant separate examination and searches. For these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Requirement for Restriction be withdrawn, and that all of the pending claims be examined together in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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